



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

FY-03-73

PSC SETS HEARING SCHEDULE IN LACLEDE GAS COMPANY CATCH-UP/KEEP-UP PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Jefferson City (November 12, 2002)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold formal hearings **December 2, 2002 and December 3, 2002**, in Laclede Gas Company's Catch-Up/Keep-Up Program proposal.

These hearings will be held in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, in Jefferson City. The Governor Office Building is a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in the hearing should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) prior to the hearing.

According to Laclede Gas Company, the Catch-Up/Keep-Up program is designed to assist eligible, low-income customers, through financial assistance, conservation, and education in managing their energy bills in a manner that will eliminate their arrearages for natural gas service over time, ensure their continued access to natural gas service under manageable terms, and ultimately reduce the level of uncollectibles experienced by the company. Funding for the proposed program would come through the partial allocation of pipeline discounts to low-income assistance programs, that currently go to all customers.

The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold a local public hearing in this case in St. Louis on November 18, 2002. The local public hearing will be held in Room 116 of the Wainwright State Office Building, 111 North Seventh Street, in St. Louis. The PSC Staff will be available from 11:45 a.m. until noon to answer any questions customers may have as well as provide information on the local public hearing process. The Commission will begin receiving customer comment at 12:00 p.m. The local public hearing will continue until all those present have had an opportunity to testify, but will need to end by 2:00 p.m.

---0---